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Will we be able to fix renal malformations by mixing genetics and developmental biology with regenerative medicine?

Friday 9th February 2018 1pm  
June Lloyd, ICH

Abstract  
Severe kidney failure affects around two million people, Worldwide. Of these, around 80,000 are children and many of them were born with abnormal kidneys and carry mutations of genes normally active during kidney development. Kidney transplants are in short supply and life expectancy on dialysis is less than that for many cancer patients. By combining human pluripotent stem cell technology with knowledge of developmental biology and genetics, it is envisaged that regenerative medicine and gene transfer strategies will revolutionise our understanding of kidney disease and provide novel therapies for kidney failure.

Biosketch  
Adrian S. Woolf is Professor of Paediatric Science in the Division of Cell Matrix Biology & Regenerative Medicine, in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine & Health, University of Manchester. He is also an Honorary Consultant Nephrologist at Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, and an Honorary Professor at University College London. Adrian has 25 years’ experience as a clinician scientist aiming to: i. pinpoint genetic and environmental causes of congenital malformations; ii. define roles of implicated molecules in organogenesis and differentiation; and iii. design and test novel therapies preventing malformations and promoting regeneration.